

# ARMY TALKS



## *The Enemy and You*



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EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS, UNITED STATES ARMY

HEADQUARTERS  
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS  
UNITED STATES ARMY

RPF/JKM/obe

AG 353 MGC

29 August, 1943

SUBJECT: Education in Military and Current Affairs

TO: Commanding General, V Corps

1. In the training of the American soldier the purely military and technical aspects are usually stressed. It is essential, however, that in addition, the soldier be mentally prepared for battle. He must know and understand the vital necessity for the successful conclusion of the war.

2. To assist in accomplishing this end, it is desired that you establish within the elements of your command a weekly Education Program to instill in all military personnel the following:

- a. Confidence in the command.
- b. Pride in service and a sense of personal participation.
- c. Knowledge of the causes and progress of the war.
- d. A better understanding of our allies.
- e. An interest in current events and their relation to the war and the establishment of the peace.

3. To further these ends, each separate unit commander will arrange to have matters of current interest as designated in paragraph 2c, d and e above, and matters of leadership and confidence in the command as indicated in paragraph 2a and b above, discussed periodically within his command. Such discussion should be by company commanders personally or by selected Officers and NCO's from the command as deemed best by the unit commander. It is desired to make it clear that the proper presentation of this material is a command function, and should be handled as such. You are authorized to devote one (1) hour of training time per week to this program.

4. The Special Service Section, SOS, ETOUSA, will prepare and distribute the material for such weekly discussions, maintaining in their discretion a reasonable balance between the significance and progress of military events and current events, relations with our allies, etc. This material will be dated and delivered sufficiently in advance for consideration by the staffs concerned at least two days before ultimate use.

5. Direct communication between your headquarters and Special Service Section, SOS, ETOUSA, is authorized in conducting this program.

6. In order to make the plan effective it will be necessary to provide and train an Education Officer of suitable rank in your headquarters, and in each of your subordinate headquarters down to and including divisions.

By command of Lieutenant General DEVERS:

RICHARD P. FISK,  
Lt. Colonel, A.G.D.,  
Assistant Adjutant General.

*It is suggested that the discussion leader call this matter to the attention of his Commanding Officer.*

# ARMY TALKS



## EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

### THE ENEMY AND YOU



"THE German soldier is a damned tough hombre."

Thus, in a sentence, did Maj. Gen. C. V. Strong, Assistant Chief of Staff, sum up the Nazi fighting man in a Washington speech last year.

Thousands of American troops will meet for the first time these "tough hombres" in the invasion from England. They will learn what our soldiers in Africa, Sicily and Italy learned—that the swastika boys are not a push-over. We will have to use all we have learned to beat them.

#### Nazis Think War Noble

Here is why the German soldier is dangerous:—

1. He is well trained, well equipped, disciplined and seasoned under fire.

2. He has been taught—and believes—that war is the noblest profession and that victory on the battlefield the most glorious thing in life.

Those who have fought the Nazi do not belittle his skill or courage. Only the ignorant do that.

When an advertisement in a magazine at home showed a bomber pilot grinning cheerfully and asking: "Who's afraid of the new Focke Wulf?" a member of an operational bomber group pinned a copy on the bulletin board with the note underneath "sign here."

#### Enemy Well Equipped

Every combat officer in the group signed. The name of the Group Commander headed the list.

No one in his right mind goes into a game played with bullets without the fear that makes a man use all the skill and brains he has to win.

Despite the hammering they have had from the air in the last few months, and the destruction it has caused, the Germans we will meet will be well equipped when we meet them. As the pressure continues their supplies won't flow so freely as ours, and the harder we drive the more the cut-down in their production will hurt them.

But to begin with they will have what it takes to fight, except that they will not have so ample air cover as we will. And they, too, will have the will to fight.

*This issue of ARMY TALKS discusses your enemy—the Nazi soldier you will face when the Allies invade Europe. It deals with his background, training, equipment and skill as a fighter. The first section of the book, explaining the background of Hitler's army, was based on material assembled by ARMY TALKS staff. The last part, giving detailed facts about the German soldier, was taken from "The German Soldier," and published by the Infantry Journal in February, 1944.*



Let us look a little further into this. How has a nation, beaten 22 years before, been able to recover, and attempt to conquer the world? What kind of organization and leadership gives the German his desire for war and his belief in his capacity to win?

The answers to these questions lie in history.

Some 200 years ago there came to the throne of Prussia a king who was one of the most skillful military leaders of all time. Frederick the Great. He won battles. More than that, he created a great army, and he used the army for plunder and profit.

Other nations have gradually grown away from that idea, but the Germans have held to it ever since, increased its effectiveness and streamlined its operation. Many Germans have migrated because they did not believe in it, but the German people as a whole have supported it for many generations.

## Frederick Built Staff

Frederick laid the foundations of the German General Staff. Under the leadership thus provided, the German army has been given greater attention, better training, more

prestige at home than any army in the world, because war and preparation for war has usually been the primary business of the German state.

## Denmark Early Victim

The German army has not settled into a rut, for Germany has been constantly looking around for a chance to use the army at a profit.

For example in 1864, Prussia held up her small neighbor, Denmark, and took a slice of territory. In 1866 Prussia saw that Austria was unprepared for war and defeated her in one battle.

Four years later Prussia engineered a frame-up by a faked telegram that made France declare war. The Prussian staff had again correctly estimated that

their army was better than the French. The Germans won. They took Alsace-Lorraine and an indemnity of 200 million francs in gold, quite a sum in those days.

For the next 40 years the Germans busied themselves picking up colonies around the world—some in Africa, some in China. At the same time they built up a navy to match their army.

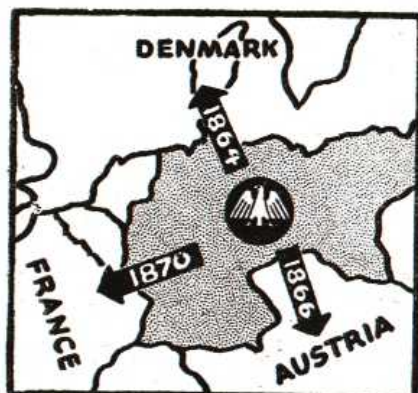
Then they were prepared for a far more ambitious war, one that

**ROUGH, TOUGH, thoroughly trained and well equipped, Hitler's swastika-waving soldiers will be no pushover when the Allies attack his Fortress Europe. Arrogant and proud of a long military history, the German army is ready to fight fanatically—to kill or be killed.**

**THE STORY of the enemy—the lowdown on the men you will face on the beachheads of Europe—is given in this issue of ARMY TALKS. After reading it you will discover that although the Allies have a big advantage, victory will not be easy. We will have to use all our power, every trick of the trade, to land a knockout punch.**

**THE NAZI SOLDIER has proved himself a formidable opponent. He knows the Allies are planning attack, and he is preparing to defend his positions. To beat him, we must know who he is, what he has to fight with and how he may be expected to use his tools.**

**ARMY TALKS gives you in this issue a straight-from-the-shoulder picture of the enemy. Remember it when D-Day dawns, at the kick-off of the biggest game in history.**



they hoped would give them control of the Balkans, Turkey and the Persian oilfields, and would push Russia back and crush France again. The spoils of such successful war would be complete domination of the continent of Europe.

The plan didn't work, but after it failed the Germans began making preparations to try it again, on even a bigger scale.

Despite the fact that they were bemoaning their status as a have-not nation; despite their wailings at being made poor by their rich "malicious neighbors," they were all the while insidiously at work. The same people who squealed at being beaten set all their ingenuity to manufacturing tragedy—tragedy for the world and for themselves. Had they used their energy and machinery for good they might readily have become a most prosperous people.

### Hitler Made Reich One Vast Arsenal

The business of war is wedged deep in the German mind. Most young Germans have been eager to serve in the army, and under Hitler's youth movement this is more true

today even than ever before. Just as Americans have a heritage of freedom and peaceful enterprise, the Germans believe in regimentation and war.

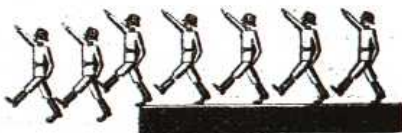
When Hitler came into power and devoted every energy of the German people to creating factories that could make munitions and to increasing the army, he was but following a German tradition. The purpose was not defense. His plan was to put everything into a war and make the war pay.

The country might not have been too prosperous but the troops were given the most attractive quarters and the best of food. They were given the best of weapons and equipment. The Nazi party glorified the army, and it offered an even more promising career for young men than ever before.

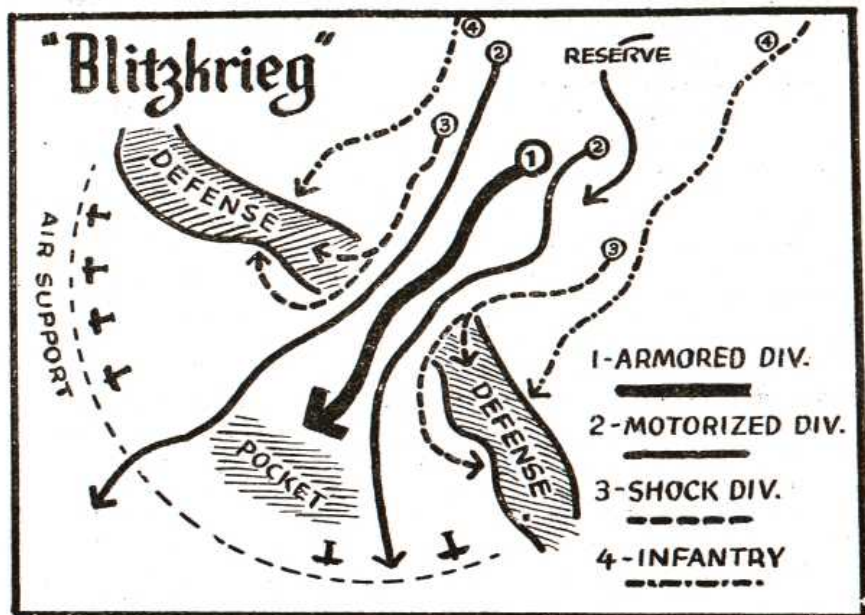
### Troops Were Told They World's Best

The soldiers developed skill, confidence and an arrogant belief that they could beat any army in the world. The science of Germany was devoted to improving their weapons and the General Staff to developing their skill and initiative in battle.

The German army was given high fire power and great mobility. Soldiers had radio sets, machine guns and light mortars to enable them to operate far from supports in the pull and haul of battle. The Nazis threw out the old idea of a line front and emphasized deep penetrations both on offence and defense. They fostered the strategy







*Copy this diagram on a blackboard, showing how Germans accomplished breakthrough in 1940 campaign. The Russians countered these tactics effectively by anti-tank defense in depth. Chart shows that in modern warfare advantage lies with the attack.*

of confusion, caused by such penetrations in the armies of the enemy, and similar confusion among civilians caused by propaganda and fifth columnists.

Swiftness, striking power and resourcefulness were sought even in the smallest German infantry units, while fast moving, mobile artillery and greater air support than any other army had were carefully coordinated with troop movements. To meet these high standards the troops were physically hardened and given all the tricks of the trade, such as faking wounds or death in order to catch the enemy off guard.

The system of fighting was based on speed, surprise, concentrated power and initiative—blitz warfare.

Again the German General Staff

planned a war, got ready for it, began it when it suited them against nations that did not want war and were not ready for it. Their success shook the world. In three years the Germans overran Europe from the English Channel to the outskirts of Moscow.

That is your enemy, his background, his mind, his tools of war.

But his early successes have not continued. The surprise Blitz that practically destroyed Poland's army in 24 and the French armies in 38 days, in two years pushed the Russians back to Leningrad, Moscow and Stalingrad, but it didn't destroy the Red Army. Meanwhile the Russians learned how to cope with all the Germans knew.

The British were pushed back to

El Alamein, but by that time they had the "know how" and the air power and equipment to chase Rommel across North Africa into the arms of the American army. And the German has no advantage in knowledge or training over the American army, for it has been trained in the most up-to-date tactics of high-powered, mobile team warfare.

To get the benefit of surprise on a large scale you must attack on a large scale. An army on the defensive can't make great use of surprise.

### Foe On Defensive Now

The Germans are on the defensive. They have neither the men nor material to make a big sustained attack.

They have no longer any advantage in fire power or mobility, and they are definitely at a disadvantage in the air.

The allied soldier who will attack in the invasion is as well trained as the German and he is better equipped. Moreover, as the fight progresses we will have more supplies and more reinforcements.

### We'll Decide When

This time it is the allied army that decides when and where the attack will be. An army on the defensive has to fight whether it thinks it can win or not. An army on the offensive starts the fight only when it feels it has in its hands the wherewithal for victory.

General Bernard L. Montgomery, who chased Nazi Marshal Rommel across Africa, said recently :

"We have got this war absolutely gripped in a firm hold and the enemy cannot escape. The only uncertain thing now is when the war is going to end. You can choose your own date and put your money on it. I have not the slightest doubt that if the battle front and the home front really get down to it this year we can get the thing almost finished—held so tightly that next year we just topple it over. At the end of this year, if not sooner, we shall have it just about right for toppling over."

The men who cross the Channel, then, can know that in the opinion of General Eisenhower, General Montgomery and the other officers in command, the Allied troops have the toughness, skill and training, the guns, the aircraft and all the tools of war—have all that it takes to beat the Germans in the west.

### Nazis Now Facing Overwhelming Force

The German is a tough hombre and in fighting him every man needs to use all the skill and brains he has. But the German is no longer fighting people who are not ready. He is fighting people who know all he knows, who have more men than he, and more air power and artillery, armor, transport and more of all the tools of war than he has.

He is fighting men who know that they are going to win, while the best he hopes for is a draw. The German hasn't a friend on earth. The Allies have with them the hopes of the world.

### SUMMARY

*The Germans have made a business of war. Hitler made army service even more attractive as a career. The military tradition was exploited, the soldier glorified. Now, however, the German soldier faces a foe stronger than himself.*

**How old is the military tradition and idea of self-righteous conquest in Germany? To what extent and in what ways has the German mind been poisoned by the Prussian ideal?**





## Meet Fritz—A Very Tough Guy

**German soldier good, but no superman. Has background of pre-military training. At home in uniform. Has good weapons. German Army puts greater emphasis on rifle marksmanship. Pride in weapons.**

Here he is. The guy at the other end of the grenade and rifle. The expert who laid the mines and set the booby trap. The man who fired the 88 mm. cannon into the landing barges at Salerno and hid the time bomb in the post office at Naples. The soldier who hit the Poles, Norwegians, Dutch, Belgians, French, Greeks, and Yugoslavs. The soldier who fights stubbornly and skillfully against Russians, British, and Americans. The German soldier.

On the offensive, this man was

hot stuff. In 1936 he helped to smash the Spanish Loyalists. In March, 1938, he took over Austria and looked great, goose-stepping down the Ringstrasse in Vienna.

In March, 1939, he grabbed off Czechoslovakia. Not a finger was raised against him. He looked too strong, too tough.

### He Had World Bluffed

The world feared this wonderfully equipped and trained fighting man—so good he won on form alone, without fighting.

Poland called his hand. He proceeded to prove it wasn't bluff. The German army overran Poland before the Poles were able to complete their mobilization.

In a few weeks of blitzkrieg, Poland was Hitler's. That was in September, 1939. It should



be added that Poland was invaded without a declaration of war.

The Nazi took it easy then until April, 1940. On April 9, he pulled the Trojan Horse act in Norway and Denmark—crept into those countries hidden in the holds of cargo vessels, and took the two countries over with the aid of fifth columnists.

## Took Him Six Weeks To Kayo French Army

Finally, on May 10, the German soldier launched conclusive proof of his deadly efficiency.; In six weeks he knocked out the French Army.

But Hitler wasn't finished. His air force didn't succeed in beating the British. But in April, 1941, he knocked over Yugoslavia in a 12-day campaign, and soon took Crete, with airborne troops, and most of North Africa.

Since that time the picture has changed. The Russians, British and Americans ended the parade, but this man, this German soldier, is still formidable.

## Recruits Drafted At 19

The German boy, physically hardened and with a Nazi-doctored mind and spirit, joined the army in his nineteenth year. The laws of March 16 and May 21, 1935, revived conscription and put the German army back on its feet.

The soldier served two years. In 1935 there were 36 divisions. The present strength of the German army is estimated to be about 300 Divisions.

Each man, as he was called up for service, was tested for special abilities. Then he was assigned to

the branch of the army for which he was best suited. He went to a training center where he remained for six months.

The annual class of recruits joined the colors on or about November 1. From then until March all the training was directed towards developing the men as individual fighters.

During the fifth month the men worked on platoon and company problems. The sixth month was given to battalion and regimental exercises.



The summer schedule included three weeks in a camp. The camp was generally large enough to hold three regiments at one time. Infantry and artillery were trained together as a team. The German march and combat groups—the infantry regiment and field artillery battalion—developed their tactics together.

## Already Half Trained

Once every two years, in September and October, large scale maneuvers were held. The purpose was to train the combined staffs, arms and services, and the maneuvers usually included whole divisions.

Before the rookie got into the army he had had about 12 years of pre-military training. He felt at home in his uniform, in barracks and with a rifle. Nevertheless, every recruit got a big dose of rifle marksmanship training.

Among the weapons the German uses is the Karbiner 98K, a rifle quite similar to our own Springfield, but not so accurate. It is bolt-

operated, with a five-shot clip. The sight has no windage or elevation adjustments. The caliber is .312.

Its bullet has a muzzle velocity of

2,800ft. per second. Its effective range is 800yds. The rifle weighs about 9lb. If you can shoot an M 1903 you'd have no trouble with the



"Kar 98K."

The new semi-automatic Gewehr 41 operates very much like the Garand.

## Luger Pistol Used As Booby Trap Bait

Another common German weapon is the Luger pistol. It weighs 1 lb. 14 ounces, is of caliber .354 and has an effective range of 25 yards. As it is a neat, attractive weapon, it is often used as bait for a booby trap. Watch out.

The Germans were surprised by the accuracy of American marksmanship in the last war. They therefore resolved to put more emphasis on rifle shooting in preparing for World War II. We think our rifle is the best in the world, but the German soldier has learned to get good results from his.

## Stress Fire Volume

The German idea of "good results" differs from ours. They stress volume of fire more than accuracy. The basic fire power of the infantry squad is provided by a light machine gun, supported by ten rifles. Their marksmanship standards aren't as high as ours, but they can lay down a heavy volume of fire on vital points.

Their experience in Russia may bring about a change in viewpoint, however. German sharpshooters are badly needed, and more training in marksmanship may result. But the German soldier can shoot plenty straight enough to put his slugs uncomfortably close.

## Rifle Care Ingrained

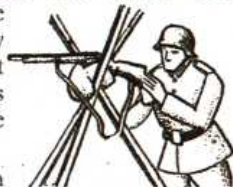
Pride in weapons—and proper care of them—are drilled into every German soldier. German soldiers clean their rifles carefully. Their faces are serious. They realize the time is near when their lives will depend on their arms.

The German Army has a special punishment for a man whose rifle is dirty. On a rainy day he reports on the parade ground. A sergeant marches him to the muddiest part of the field. Then he orders the man to run around the area, falling down and rising at commands "Down!" and "Up!" Not until the soldier is covered with mud and thoroughly exhausted does this punishment come to an end.

## "Kill Or Be Killed" Is The Background

The soldier never forgets that it pays to keep the rifle clean—that a clean rifle shoots—a dirty one may not when it means "kill or be killed."

German drivers take good care of their vehicles. Gunners tend their guns with care. Preventive maintenance is a byword in the German Army. The reason is that every





piece of equipment costs money, and Germany, which is rich in fanaticism and racial intolerance, is short of cash.

## SUMMARY 2

*The German soldier looked invincible in the early part of the war, and he is still tough. He was carefully assigned and trained. His*

*weapons are good, and he was taught to take care of them. He is severely punished if he fails to do so.*

**What are some of the things that make the German soldier a formidable enemy? Why is so much emphasis placed upon the care of weapons and equipment in the Wehrmacht?**

## Bootleg Tanks Built in 1935

**German General Staff secretly prepared for next attempt after World War I. Hitler openly disregarded Versailles Treaty. Great armored force built. Assault troops carefully chosen and trained. "Ich oder du!"**

Article 171 of the Versailles Treaty stated that the Germans might not build or buy armored cars, tanks and other combat vehicles. But the Allied nations which had been strong enough to defeat Germany in World War I were not willing to force Germany to live up to this part of the Treaty.

The treaty did not prevent the German army from studying armored warfare and using dummy tanks built on trucks for maneuvers. When Hitler came to power, tanks and armored cars were openly built on a mass scale. By 1935, Hitler thought it was time to scare the world with displays of German armed might, and he ran some big armored maneuvers without particular secrecy.

By 1937 Germany had three armored divisions, each with two regiments of tanks, a brigade of

motorborne riflemen, a section of antitank artillery and units of a signal corps.

In that year the United States Army had only a company or two of modern tanks. By the time the Germans invaded Russia in 1941, their force was built up to more than 20 armored divisions with thousands of tanks.

## Blitz Was Joint Blow

It was this kind of fighting—a combined use of tanks, dive bombers, infantry, artillery, and engineers—which the Germans used in all their big attacks. In Poland, France, Greece and Russia armored units with dive bombers to help them struck at the weaker places, and motorized infantry and artillery and other troops followed to clean up and hold and extend the areas overrun.

The armored units never attacked the places strongly defended if they could avoid them. Where the armored units could not break through, infantry, artillery, chemical troops with smoke and engineers with explosives first had to make a hole through which the German armored forces could go to reach the rear areas.

This kind of complicated attack demanded a high quality of training. Only young men, sound in mind and body, were picked for the job. A lot of time was given to building up a good, big officer corps.

You have heard a great deal about German thoroughness. One of the best examples of this is the way the Germans built exact models of the Maginot Line and fortresses like Eben Emael, and then trained their troops in ways of turning these defenses into death traps for the defenders.



## The "Ein-Zwei" Punch

Before these troops moved close to the bunker, a short artillery concentration softened it up. Then the artillery laid down smoke. Behind the smoke the infantry and engineers moved up into a short-range position, bringing anti-tank guns, heavy machine guns, mortars, rifles, grenades and flamethrowers.

When the smoke cleared all the weapons fired on carefully pre-arranged targets such as sight holes and windows. Under cover of such fire the infantry and engineers moved in for the kill.

The idea was to get so close to the pillbox or bunker that the attackers were safe under the angle of fire of the defending machine guns. Since pillboxes are usually laid out so that each one is covered by machine-gun fire from its neighbors, the Germans attacked the adjoining

pillboxes in a similar manner to keep them busy.

Sometimes engineers fastened powerful explosives at the ends of long poles and poked them into windows where they went off. The infantry sometimes tied the heads of six stick grenades around a complete central grenade and dropped them into the pillboxes with poles.

## Sand Bags vs. Pillboxes

German flamethrowers had a range of 20 to 30 yards, and could produce a jet of flame for 10 to 25 seconds. A simpler method of attacking a pillbox was to plug embrasures with sand bags.

In our own advances into Hitler's Festung Europa—his "European Fortress"—we will constantly be running into German strongpoints. What the Germans dished out to the Dutch, Belgians and French, they will get back with interest. Pillboxes and bunkers can be cracked.

Except in Russia, where prisoners have sometimes been starved-looking and weak, there is no evidence that the German soldier is suffering from poor rations.



Their folks at home may be doing without a great many things, but the soldier at the front is getting bread, cheese, canned meats, biscuits, preserves, sardines, sausage and a lot of delicacies stolen from France, Italy, the Low Countries and other invaded lands.

Besides, German scientists long





ago started work on ersatz—substitute foods, using all kinds of chemicals, soy beans, and sawdust. Recently reported is a “vegetable bomb”—an assortment of beans, peas, carrots, cabbage, spinach, onions and potatoes—dried and compressed into 30-pound packages for delivery by airplane to cut-off German units.

## Look Out For Food

Don't expect, therefore, that the German soldier will be weak and starved. In fact, you will often find yourself tempted by packages of German food—tubes of cheese and cans of delicious Norwegian fish. Such temptation is well recognized by the German Army, and you can add German food and beer to your “don't touch” or “handle with care” list. Booby traps and captured German food work together.

When his food runs out or when hot food is not brought up for days on end, it is a matter of pride with the German soldier not to complain. Ability to stand hunger and thirst and other hardships is considered a soldierly virtue, which, of course, it is.

There are likely to be failures and delays in the services of supply. The

Germans anticipated these. Many a 20- or 30-mile march was made in training without rations or on reduced rations.

The importance of sanitation is also stressed. Most German troops are as clean as circumstances permit. In the field, they wash their messkits, dispose of garbage properly, and help cut down dysentery and other diseases carried by flies by careful attention to sanitary measures.

## German OCS Was Tough

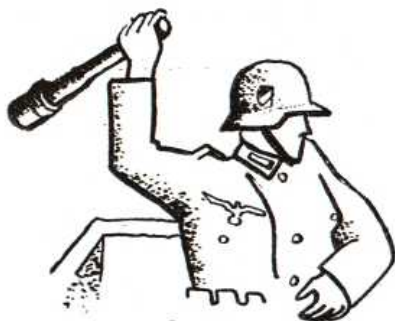
The policy of selecting and training young officers for highly important duty goes back to the earliest days of the German army. The genius who first thought of a general staff, with additional staffs at army, division and corps headquarters, was a Prussian general, Scharnhorst.

That name is familiar to us today—one of Germany's biggest battleships—sunk late in 1943—was named after him. All armies eventually followed the idea of having a General Staff to help the highest commanders.

Before the war, the German army maintained very special standards in its officer selection. A



THE BOOBY TRAP



## Ich oder Du!

civilian who wanted to be an officer applied to the regiment of his choice. He had to be single, a so-called Aryan and a gymnasium graduate, which corresponds to two years in an American college.

He was interviewed by a board of officers and given several severe examinations to test his mental, physical and spiritual aptitude for the job. If he passed, he became a cadet and served for one year in the ranks. At the end of the year, he went to a wonderfully equipped military school for nine months and learned basic military theory.

### Course Made Shorter After War Started

Upon graduation the officer went to a weapon school "destined to bring the candidates back to earth after their theoretical courses." Then the candidate returned to his original unit for a few months. If, finally, he was elected unanimously by the officers of his regiment, he was received as a second lieutenant. Germany's pre-war military school turned out 2,500 officers a year.

By 1940, war had changed the German system greatly. The schools ground out officers at the rate of 6,500 every four months. All candidates for officer grades must have had 15 months of enlisted service and at least two months' experience in the field as a platoon or section leader.

### "Me Or You," Nazi Slogan

"... The German is skillful, ruthless and a master of deception. He can be beaten. American soldiers have seen him in retreat. The myth of the invincibility of the German army has been exploded. It has been exploded by skillfully led, skillfully fought and determined troops. The German army can be overcome by no other means. . . ."

There are plenty of men like this left. His slogan is "Ich Oder Du!" "Me or you!" "My life or yours!" There he stands. What are you going to do about it?

## SUMMARY 3

*The Nazis ignored the Versailles Treaty and built an army. This new army stressed the lightning attack. It worked to perfection against unprepared nations. The German Army can be beaten only by troops equally well trained, well equipped and well led.*

**What was a striking example of the thoroughness of German military preparations? How does the German soldier react to hardship in the field?**





# Preparation

**W**HEN a boxer goes into the ring he wants to know all about this opponent. That opponent's habit of dropping his guard when a feint is made toward his breadbasket may mean an opportunity for scoring a knockout. Knowing such a weakness may make the difference between victory and defeat. Our invasion force is getting ready to go into the ring, getting ready to take Hitler's Festung Europe and, like the boxer, we want to know where our enemy is weak and where he is strong. This issue of ARMY TALKS is one of several designed to give you an accurate picture of the fellow in the other corner.

You, the discussion leader, are the most important factor in determining whether this subject "goes over" with the men. You set the pace in the way you handle the material and yourself in the ten-minute introduction. Outline the topic as simply and directly as possible. Leave a few of the obvious points for the men to pick up—don't say it all. Phrase your ideas provocatively. Your objective is a good discussion. One of the best ways to achieve it is to give someone a chance to disagree with you. This task is not easy. It cannot be done without careful preparation. A quick look-over 15 minutes before the meeting isn't enough. A sloppy preparation is likely to result in poor discussion.

Either the Intelligence or Plans and Training Officer can help you on this assignment. Both have a thorough understanding of Jerry and his fighting habits. Ask one of them to sit in on the discussion and make a five-minute talk. If men, either British or American, with battle experience against the Germans are available, invite them to take part.

Since the first week of basic training we have all been exposed to films, lectures and pamphlets about our enemy. Not one of us remembers all of it. This means that each of us has an individual contribution to make to the group's information. Try to find someone with enough artistic skill to reproduce a few of the illustrations in the book as rough line drawings. These could be used by several discussion sections. Ask your Special Service or S-2 Officer to lend you posters or charts showing German uniforms, and weapons. Periodical material on the German soldier is easily obtainable, for example see : Infantry Journal, April, May, July, 1943, and January, 1944 ; Life, September 6, 1943, and January 10, 1944 ; and Yank, October 10, 1943, and February 20, 1944.

**[**Keep the discussion on an aggressive note. Heine is the guy on the other end of the rifle. He says "Ich oder du" but we mean it to be HIM.



# QUESTIONS

## FOR THE DISCUSSION

How does the boyhood of a young Nazi compare with your own? What is meant when it is said that "a Nazi youth is free only to die for der Fuehrer"? What would have been our fate and the fate of our sons if the Germans had succeeded in their plans for world conquest?

What is meant by the statement that Germany makes a business of war and expects to make it pay? What has been the result in the past? in her war with Denmark? Austria? France? World War I? p. 4.

In what important way will the Germans be at a disadvantage from here on? What other disadvantages are there in the defensive? p. 7.

Why is "preventive maintenance" stressed so much in the German army? Have we a lesson to learn from them on this point? p. 10.

The average Heine is a thrifty fellow. Why should you be suspicious if you find bottled goods or choice items of German equipment lying around? If you were baiting a booby trap for him what would you use? pp. 11 and 13.

How are the armored forces employed in the Blitzkrieg technique? How does this compare with line defense? What are the characteristics of "defense in depth"?

We know the importance of "confidence in command." Events in North Africa and Italy show it has been thoroughly justified. But what about the other side of the picture? What do the Generals of the Allied Command think about the doughboy? p. 7.

What does the German soldier regard as "good results" in the use of rifle, semi-automatic rifle and machine gun? How do American standards of marksmanship stack up with his? p. 10.

